

Appl. No. 09/608,022
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Response to Office action of January 11, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended) A method of enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of:

receiving, in a computer system, indicating data from a sensing device regarding the identity of a printed paper form and a position of the sensing device relative to the printed form, the printed form being provided to the auction buyer, the form containing visible information relating to a bid transaction, the form and also including invisible coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of a plurality of reference points of the form, wherein the visible information and the invisible coded data are printed substantially simultaneously and wherein at the time of printing the computer system associates the type and spatial extent of the coded data with the spatial extent of at least some of the visible information, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the form, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data, the coded data identifying a unique location of each of the reference points relative to the form; and

identifying, in the computer system and from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction.

2 (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction is associated with at least one zone of the form and in which the method includes identifying, in the computer system and from the zone relative to which the sensing device is located, said at least one parameter.

3 (Original) The method of claim 2 which includes:

receiving, in the computer system, data regarding movement of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device sensing its movement relative to the form using at least some of the coded data; and

identifying, in the computer system and from said movement being at least partially within said at least one zone, said at least one parameter of the bid transaction.

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4-7 (Cancelled)

8 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 in which the parameter is an action parameter of the bid transaction, the method including effecting, in the computer system, an operation in respect of the action parameter.

9 (Original) The method of claim 8 in which the action parameter of the bid transaction is selected from the group comprising:

requesting the subcategories contained in an auction category, requesting the auction listings contained in an auction subcategory, searching auction listings, requesting the details of an auction item listing, sending e-mail to the seller of an item, requesting a bid history related to an item, requesting a list of leading bidders related to an item, and placing a bid.

10 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 in which the parameter is an option parameter of the bid transaction, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the auction buyer has entered a hand-drawn mark by means of the sensing device and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the option parameter.

11 (Original) The method of claim 10 in which the option parameter is associated with at least one of:

requesting the subcategories contained in an auction category, requesting the auction listings contained in an auction subcategory, searching auction listings, requesting the details of an auction item listing, sending e-mail to the seller of an item, requesting a bid history related to an item, requesting a list of leading bidders related to an item, placing a bid, a search results limit, and a search category specification.

12 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 in which the parameter is a text parameter of the bid transaction, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the auction buyer has entered handwritten text data by means of the sensing device and

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effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the text parameter.

13 (Original) The method of claim 12 which includes converting, in the computer system, the handwritten text data to computer text.

14 (Original) The method of claim 13 in which the text parameter is associated with at least one of:

a name of the auction buyer, auction item search text, and a bid amount.

15 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 in which the parameter is an authorization parameter of the bid transaction, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the auction buyer has entered a handwritten signature by means of the sensing device and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the authorization parameter.

16 (Original) The method of claim 15 which includes verifying, in the computer system, that the signature is that of the auction buyer.

17 (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the authorization parameter is associated with authorization of at least one of:

placing a bid, and payment for a successful bid.

18 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 in which the parameter is a picture parameter of the bid transaction, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the auction buyer has entered a hand-drawn picture by means of the sensing device and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the picture parameter.

19 (Original) The method of claim 18 in which the picture parameter is associated with a picture of a listed item.

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20 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the form contains information relating to at least one of:

terms of an item auction, a description of an item being listed for auction, categories in which an item can be listed, subcategories in which an item can be listed, a number of items in a subcategory, a title of an item listing, and an identification number of a listed item.

21 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 which includes printing the form on demand.

22-23 (Cancelled).

24 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 which includes retaining a retrievable record of each form generated, the form being retrievable using its identity as contained in its coded data.

25 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 which includes distributing a plurality of the forms using a mixture of multicast and pointcast communications protocols.

26 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the sensing device contains an identification means which imparts a unique identity to the sensing device and identifies it as being associated with a particular auction buyer and in which the method includes monitoring, in the computer system, said identity.

27 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 which includes providing all required information relating to the bid transaction in the form to eliminate the need for a separate display device.

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28 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the form is printed on multiple pages and in which the method includes binding the pages.

29 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the apparatus including

a printed paper form containing visible information relating to a bid transaction, ~~the form and~~ including invisible coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of a plurality of reference points of the form, the coded data identifying a unique location of each of the reference points relative to the form; and

a computer system for receiving indicating data from a sensing device for identifying at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction, the indicating data being indicative of the identity of the form and a position of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data, wherein the visible information and the invisible coded data are printed substantially simultaneously and wherein at the time of printing the computer system associates the type and spatial extent of the coded data with the spatial extent of at least some of the visible information.

30 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29 in which said at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction is associated with at least one zone of the printed form.

31 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29 which includes the sensing device, the sensing device sensing its movement relative to the printed form using at least some of the coded data.

32-35 (Cancelled)

36 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29 in which said at least one parameter of the bid transaction is selected from the group comprising an action parameter of the bid transaction, an option parameter of the bid transaction, a text parameter of the bid

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transaction, an authorization parameter of the bid transaction, and a picture parameter of the bid transaction.

37 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36 in which the action parameter of the bid transaction is selected from the group comprising:

requesting the subcategories contained in an auction category, requesting the auction listings contained in an auction subcategory, searching auction listings, requesting the details of an auction item listing, sending e-mail to the seller of an item, requesting a bid history related to an item, requesting a list of leading bidders related to an item, and placing a bid.

38 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36 in which the option parameter is associated with at least one of:

requesting the subcategories contained in an auction category, requesting the auction listings contained in an auction subcategory, searching auction listings, requesting the details of an auction item listing, sending e-mail to the seller of an item, requesting a bid history related to an item, requesting a list of leading bidders related to an item, placing a bid, a search results limit, and a search category specification.

39 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36 in which the text parameter is associated with at least one of:

a name of the auction buyer, auction item search text, and a bid amount.

40 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36 in which the authorization parameter is associated with authorization of at least one of:

placing a bid, and payment for a successful bid.

41 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36 in which the picture parameter is associated with a picture of a listed item.

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42 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31 in which the sensing device includes a marking nib.

43 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31 in which the sensing device contains an identification means which imparts a unique identity to the sensing device and identifies it as being associated with a particular auction buyer.

44-47 (Cancelled).

48 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45 in which, to cater for a form printed on multiple pages, the printer includes a binding means for binding the pages.